

Summary Report

APBON 7th Web Seminar

1. Date: 27th May, 2021

Time: 15:00-17:00 in Japanese Standard Time

(13:00-15:00 in Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam), (11:45-13:45 in Nepal)

(14:00-16:00 in Malaysia, Philippines, China), (5/26 20:00-22:00 in Hawaii)

2. Location, Participants

- Webex Meeting Room
- 39 participants (35 participants and 4 from secretariat) from 9 Nationalities
- MC: Dr. Yongyut (Kasetsart University)

3. Program:

Opening and Announcement:

Secretariat of APBON (Ms. Neagari: Biodiversity Center of Japan)

- Greetings from Ms. Neagari from APBON Secretariat
- Welcomed all of the participants to join this 7th APBON web seminar
- The agenda and rules of the meeting were proposed
- Introduced today's MC

Presentation1:

Dr. Yuichi Kano (Kyushu University) and

Dr. Yayoi Takeuchi (National Institute for Environmental Studies)

“Development of the graphical user-friendly database on plant diversity of Monsoon Asia “floraZia” ”

Summary of presentation

Referring to ‘ffish.asiaa’ database on freshwater species diversity in Monsoon Asia, Dr. Kano and Dr. Takeuchi introduced their ongoing plant database “FloraZia.com,” which is designed a similar structure of “ffish.aisa”. This database intends to publish a lot of “unpublished” data of flora in Monsoon Asia, which was surveyed by APBON members. Initially 307 test data had been input. The floraZia contains occurrence data, field photos, specimen photos, 3D models, scientific papers, and DNA sequencing and linked to the

existed database such as GBIF, DDBJ,. Since the system development of “floraZia” would have almost been completed, they introduced the Future plan which tried to include Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and a part of Sarawak (Ulu Anap). The presenter also demonstrated the actual site with some utility introduced.

Dr. Takeuchi added to mention that APBON had a lot of field data set, so digitalization was one of the top priority issues in many countries and in APBON activities. It would be providing very good opportunities to open any data for further collaboration based on APBON.

Q&A Session

Q: Are there any keys provided for each family/genus/species?

A: There're no keys provided, but maybe we can do that, or anyone familiar with can do that.

Q: Is it possible that we can curate the data by using the estimation? For example, if I want to check one province in Thailand, is it possible?

A: We could talk about this issue later. It'll be very great that you could provide your data set.

Q: Does the database use the Darwin core format?

A: For accurately, this is not the same as the Darwin core format, but we changed through the Darwin core format.

Q: If any member country would like to join this development, so what kind of data should be required?

A: Any kind of data is OK, so Dr. Yahara's team usually does the transect survey in one area and their method is very comprehensive to survey the whole community in plant transects. So they take occurrence data and sometimes take the size of plants. And they also take pictures and do some sequencing. If you only have partial data set, it should be ok.

Presentaton2:

Dr. Asanee Kawtrakul (Kasetsart University)

“TH-BIF: Moving Forward to an Open Platform for Collecting Biodiversity Data for Open Innovation”

Summary of presentation

Dr. Kawtrakul briefly introduced TH-BIF development in 2018. The concept of TH-BIF is to provide a platform for data sharing and service innovation by designing a system to improve the data storage of plants, animals, microorganisms, binomial nomenclature, invasive species, the status of threatened species in Thailand, etc. It includes interaction with the gateway to link with other information Nodes such as research and innovation Node, gene banks Node, and spatial data Node. It also includes the link with the agriculture research, biodiversity research, and national research center of Thailand. The presenter also introduced the network of TH-BIF expanding to GBIF Red List then now moving forward to open their platform and open the data based on the conscientious of stakeholder. As a future of TH-BIF, she introduced further development of structure and system such as networking with traditional medicines and information sharing platform.

Q&A Session

Q: Is there any data sharing policy especially genetic data and for organisms listed in CITES?

A: Yes. This is an ongoing process with the ONEP (Office of Natural Resources Environmental Policy and Planning) organization. They already have a committee to take care of the data governance including data sharing policy.

Q: Congratulations Prof. Asanee and highly appreciate that TH-BIF has ensured vertical and horizontal interoperability and has ensured data quality. Is there a link or relationship between TH-BIF and Thailand's Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism?

A: I think it's welcomed by ONEP. Because the data validation is very important and also it's the part of hard work, which we need more specialists to contribute to clean data.

Q: As for the data collection strategy, not only collecting existed data, do you also newly collect the data by field survey?

A: Based on the data governance committee, it is on the procedure to select which part of data since we have many data sets. So based on the data owner, they will inform us soon which data will be open for several levels of accessibility. So I think it's in the process to have consensus on open data.

Q: Does the API platform open to the public very soon?

A: We use API from IUCN and GBIF, and for API, we published and announced to 21

organizations who are TH-BIF members. And it becomes open more and more if there's more collaborative network. I think this will be handled by the ONEP.

Q: Thailand has been collected species data for almost 100 years. Since the last three years of this project development, our colleagues and experts are considering some factors that are driving suspect and the factor becomes the barrier of this project. Could you share the experience of the success story and your view of expectation?

A: From the first year, it is very hard work to communicate and promote this platform to open the mindset for data sharing. So first, we tried to promote the TH-BIF platform could be login to everyone. Since some data is the national level, at least the country needs to know how many species in Thailand that we have. Since the office of natural resource and environmental policy and planning's main goal is conservation, restoration and they also work with BEDO (Biodiversity-based Economy Development Office), which is one of the organization. They focus on how to utilize biodiversity for the economy.

In the second year, we discussed a lot about data security and trustworthy platform. For data security, the development is, this is the country level so it might be several level accessibilities. So we should clarify which one we would like to keep for not open access. And they have several parts that we would like to open to set the priority of research to support policy and planning, especially for conservation and restoration. So based on this idea, we provide tools and go together which I think is the main factor to gain success to share the data. Meanwhile, the hard part of this work is much knowledge still keep in the paper, so how to input those data is a lot of work. Hope I answered your question.

Q: You talked about how biodiversity database contributes to bioeconomy, and the policy in Thailand. And the examples that data have been used for the strategies, so if not what are the strategies in your mind.

A: First of all, TH-BIF is not only collecting the biodiversity data, we also try to link with wisdom and local knowledge how to utilize those data and have a collaboration with the community level to let them know the value of every biodiversity information. Since we have data biodiversity development office, they have many celebrations with the researcher to develop the value.

So if you link this kind of knowledge, and let them know the market so this is the way this project works, not only to utilize data for make income to the community but also

they need to know to aware of conservation. And many universities also participate to do research on restoration. So restoration, conservation, and utilization also go together. I think this is part of knowing how to integrate this to provide managed services to the community to utilize their own asset. So we propose them to join so that's why we had to develop crowdsourcing data by the community people and let them know the value of the asset and then link the knowledge how to make value from that asset. So this is the idea and plan.

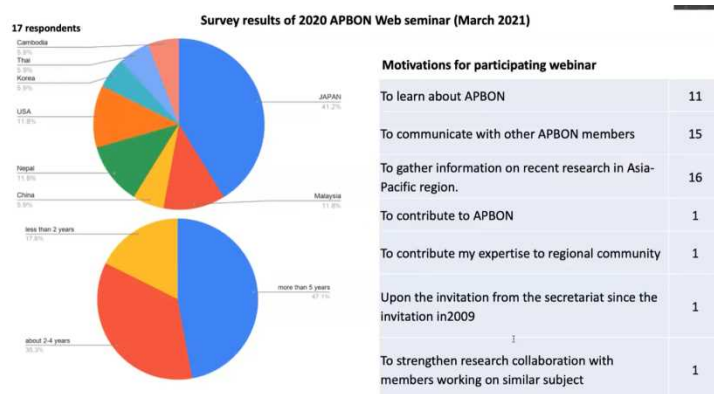
Q: Do you elaborate on the domain of the computer or the system of the computer for this database?

A: Yes. We need to work together between the data owner, data user, and academy to improve the technology and to proceed and utilize those data, either for strategic planning for conservation, restoration, and data utilization for the community economy. I think it's a non-stop project. Data will increase gradually if the organization could promote to the partner and user how the value can put on to the data. So we set some important work that is magnetizing biodiversity data.

APBON discussion on the Management Committee and future activities (Dr. Muraoka)

(1) Survey results on APBON web seminar

-The survey results of 2020 APBON web seminar was shared.



-Some very useful comments from participants were shared, which are good points, bad points and other opinions.

Survey results of 2020 APBON Web seminar (March 2021)

Good Points

- Frequent sessions
- High accessibility (regarding the unnecessary of physical transportation)
- Being able to maintain the connections with other members
- everyone can actively participate and contribute to APBON
- Succeeded in maintaining the activity of APBON under current situation.
- Achieving the goals and targets of APBON

Bad Points

- each session was too short.
- access to the seminar was limited to pre-registered people and regular members.
- Bad connection.
- hard to concentrate.
- auditorial troubles.
- discussions via online are difficult.

Other Opinions

- felt the full commitment to holding the event in the best way possible.
- should spare time to discuss the comprehensive themes beyond certain presentations.
- some seminars were a little basic.
- The opportunity to listen to senior researchers' talk itself is precious. However, I am hoping to see more Mid- and Early-Career researchers deliver a talk. The webinar series is a great venue for it.

-Some topics and ideas about future APBON Webinar were shared.

Survey results of 2020 APBON Web seminar (March 2021)

Topics to Cover in APBON Web Seminar

- internalization of environmental services
- information endemic to a country or region
- conservation of marine endangered species
- ecosystem health
- community participation, citizen science and influencing public awareness.
- phenology
- land use / land coverage change
- reviewing biodiversity conservation from social aspect
- post 2020 targets
- application of citizen science to conservation policy
- tropical tree phenology and tree demography
- ethnobotany
- phenology
- referring to topics regarding biodiversity in asia-pacific region
- Nature based Solutions (NbS)
- topics of global importance and should be interdisciplinary talk
- inland fisheries in Mekong region and Cambodia

Ideas to Improve the Web Seminar

- making the seminar available for wider community
- extending the session time
- providing incentives to participants
- setting theme for each session (e.g. Phenology, Necessity of database, etc.)
- Regularly publishing an article featuring each event or session
- Preparing two presenters, one from inside APBON and another from outside the APBON, for each session
- Archiving the recordings of the Web Seminar

Other Comments

- Establishing the cycle which a presenter participates as a moderator in a next session
- Recruiting members from regions like west asia and central asia
- I am interested in learning more about the focused observation sites Dr. Muraoka mentioned.
- Appreciate the hard work of secretariat team
- inviting guest speakers from the Asia Pacific and beyond.
- Having new-like items will extend the reach of APBON in the region.

(2) Management Committee

-The issue of reactivating this management committee function to facilitate the activities of APBON was discussed, and rules of procedure of the management committee (the draft terms of reference) were drafted.

-Some positive responses about the draft terms of references from committee members were shared as below.

- Everyone's idea and comment about these terms of reference is very much welcome in online and offline both ways.

Management Committee of APBON

- Launching of Management Committee (formerly called as Steering Committee) was discussed at the past APBON workshop, and it appears in the APBON Strategic plan paper.
- At the last Extended Steering Committee held in November 2020, the members agreed to activate the Committee to facilitate the activities of APBON. Co-chairs were suggested to consider the guidance document for Management Committee.
- On April 30, Co-chairs discussed to move forward. The document should be an inclusive guidance rather than strict rules. Co-chairs and APBON Secretariat drafted the RoP of Management Committee on May 6 and asked current Committee members (10 members, as of June 2019) to review. [due May 27]



Figure S1 Structure of APBON

(Draft) ToR of Management Committee

Roles of Management Committee are to:

1. Implement and coordinate the plans of APBON described in its Strategic Plan toward 2030.
2. Lead planning APBON activities such as webinars, workshops, participation to Asia Oceania Group on Earth Observations (AOGEO) Symposium and Workshop, and cooperation with GEO BON.
3. Facilitate communication and collaboration of APBON members for joint research, data integration, publications and outreach.
4. Coordinate the management and outreach of APBON including memberships and engagement with stakeholders.
5. Elect APBON co-chairs (see Terms of Reference of APBON co-chairs)
6. ###

Membership:

1. Management Committee consists of APBON participants, APBON co-chairs and APBON Secretariat.
2. Contributions of APBON co-chairs and APBON participants are voluntary basis.
3. APBON co-chairs work as the Committee co-chairs.
3. Number of Committee members may be about 10.
5. Leads of APBON Working Groups and Chair of AP-MBON are included in the Committee.
6. Committee members will be engaged based on the followings:
 - Self-nomination of APBON participants
 - Nomination by Working Groups
 - Nomination by co-chairs
 - Consensus-based discussion
7. Committee members serve for a period of three years. The term can be renewed if the member is willing to continue serving the Committee.
8. ###

(3) Consultation from Mr. Mangal

- The issue that what is happening right now during the pandemic duration in Bardia National Park, western Nepal was shared by Mr. Mangal.
- The problem of creating an isolation center in this Bardia National Park was pointed out, which should be known and discussed.
- Mr. Mangal also emphasized that this issue not only happened in Nepal but also in other country like Bangladesh. He stated this kind of issue should be discussed in further APBON webinars or activities.

(4) Sheila's speech

In the last parts of this web seminar, Dr. Sheila gave her speech since she is going to retire from ACB.

Photo session:

